

**September 2006**

**Newsletter 4**

**USDA Service Center**  
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**Web Sites:**

FSA: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

USDA: [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

**Hours:**

Monday-Friday  
8:00 AM-4:30 PM

**County Committee:**

Terry Munz  
Susan Harter  
Richard Manassero  
Patricia Van Dam

**Advisor:**

Bennie Moore, Jr.

**County Executive  
Director**

Douglas Brand

**Staff:**

Marilynn Wells, PT  
Holleen Self, PT

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***Los Angeles-Orange-San Bernardino Counties***

# ***FSA NEWS***

## **Milk Income Loss Contract Extension (MILCX) Program**

**Changes to FY2007 Start Month:**

During the Milk Income Loss Contract Extension (MILCX) program signup dairy operations designated on the Milk Income Loss Contract (CCC-580X) a production start month for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 and for FY2007.



However, if you did not designate a start month for FY2007, then by perpetual designation the FY2007 production start month will be the start month designated for FY2006.

If you would like to change your FY2007 production start month, you must request the change on or before the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month before the:

- month originally designated as the production start month
- newly selected production start month.

For example, since your FY2007 production start month is June 2007 and if you would like to change it to October 2006, you would have to request the change on or before September 14, 2006. If you would like to change your FY2007 start month to July 2007, you would have to request the change on or before May 14, 2007.

Changes must be made in advance of payment rates being known by the public for both the original production start month that the dairy operation is changing from and the production start month that the dairy operation is changing to. Otherwise, the production start month cannot be changed.

Changes to the FY2007 start month must be made on a CCC-580M form.

**MILC Payment Rates:** Monthly payment rates will be maintained on the Price Support Department web site located at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd>. Listed on page 2 are the MILC extension payment rates for Fiscal Year 2006 (October 2005, through September 2006).

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MILC Payment Rates for FY 2006	
October 2005	\$0.0000
November 2005	\$0.0000
December 2005	\$0.0408
January 2006	\$0.1054
February 2006	\$0.1054
March 2006	\$0.4080
April 2006	\$0.8398
May 2006	\$0.9248
June 2006	\$0.9996
July 2006	\$0.7990
August 2006	\$0.9248
September 2006	\$0.9656

To apply for the MILC extension program or to change your designated start month for Fiscal Year 2007, please contact our FSA office and ask for Marilyn.

## Noninsured Crop Assistance Program



NAP provides financial assistance to producers on non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to a natural disaster. To be eligible for NAP assistance, crops must be non-insurable crops and agricultural commodities for which catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available.

At the time of application, producers must pay a nonrefundable service fee for the eligible NAP crop by the application closing date. The cost is \$100 per crop per producer with a \$300 cap per county, not to exceed \$900 per producer.

The 2006 application closing dates for Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino counties are summarized for the specific crops as shown below:

NAP Crops	2006 Application Closing Dates
Forage Crops	9-01-06
Value Loss Crops	9-01-06
Strawberries	10-01-06
Honey, Onions	12-01-06
Almonds, Apples, Apricots, Kiwis, Avocados, Cherries, Mint, Olives, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Grapes, Pistachios, Plums, Walnuts	12-15-06
2008 Citrus Crops	1-01-07
2007 Apples	1-01-07
All other annual Crops	3-01-07

**Continuous coverage:** Producers who already have NAP coverage on 2006 crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2007, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date listed above.

A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and applicable service fee.

**Production Report Dates:** Producers must provide the FSA Office with production records for all crops in which an acreage report is filed. This production must be reported no later than the application closing date for the applicable crop in the subsequent crop year.

**Notice of Loss:** To be eligible for a NAP payment, producers must notify the FSA Office within 15 calendar days after a disaster has affected the NAP crop.

For more information regarding NAP coverage, you can contact our FSA Office and ask for Holleen.

## County Committee Election Update

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in Local Administrative Area #3 (Orange County and Southern Los Angeles County) and Local Administrative Area #4 (Northern Los Angeles County) by November 3, 2006. Voted and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by **December 4, 2006**.



County committee elections give farmers and ranchers an important opportunity to ensure that their FSA county committees represent them.

Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help make decisions necessary to administer federal farm programs offered in their communities. County committees make decisions on agricultural issues such as commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster payments and employing county executive directors.

Newly elected county committee members take office January 1, 2007.

## Soldier's and Sailor's Relief Act

Producers who are full time members of the military or have been called to active duty with their Reserve or National Guard units should know about the protections provided by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940.

Producers or borrowers should notify the county office if they are full-time members of the armed services or have been called to active duty status whether or not their financial situation has been adversely affected.

## Security Guidelines

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released a booklet entitled "Pre-Harvest Security Guidelines and Checklist 2006" to help agricultural producers enhance security at the farm level. The booklet contains practical measures to help protect against natural disasters, as well as the unintentional or intentional introduction of plant or animal diseases. To get a copy, stop by the County FSA Office. More information is available at <http://www.usda.gov/homelandsecurity>.

## USDA Online Services



USDA has implemented an E-GOV online computer system to allow customers the opportunity to conduct business and access forms and information about their farming operation using the internet. Participants interested in doing business through E-GOV need to contact their local FSA office or access the FSA website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). The website provides producers with instructions on how to get a Level 2 authorization to enable them to conduct FSA business transactions using the internet.

## Land for Sale

Producers and investors are encouraged to bookmark this website <http://www.resales.usda.gov/>. This site provides a national list of all inventory farms that are available for sale by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). These properties were acquired by the agency through mortgage defaults and oftentimes represent a good value. They may also represent an opportunity for beginning farmers to obtain a parcel of real estate and are initially targeted to beginning farmers for financing by FSA.

## Honey Loans Available

Honey producers are reminded that they may obtain 9-month marketing assistance loans on their 2006 honey until March 31, 2007.



Honey marketing assistance loans provide eligible honey producers with interim financing on their production. Instead of selling the honey immediately after harvest, a nonrecourse loan allows a producer with eligible honey to store the production, pledging the honey as collateral.

Loans mature on demand, but no later than the last day of the 9<sup>th</sup> month after the note and security agreement were approved. Honey used as collateral may not be disposed of without approval of the FSA Office staff.

Producers interested in a Honey Loan should contact our FSA Office and ask for Holleen.

## Offering Farm Loans to Family Farmers and Ranchers

The Farm Service Agency offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA's loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.



Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$200,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$852,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available.

For more information on loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, contact Gary Troester at 760-347-3675 ext 106.

## Dates to Remember

<b>November 3, 2006</b>	COC Election Ballots mailed
<b>November 23, 2006</b>	Office Closed – Thanksgiving Day
<b>December 4, 2006</b>	Last day to return voted ballots in county committee elections

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Farm Service Agency  
Los Angeles-Orange-San Bernardino County FSA Office  
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### **ACCOMMODATION TO FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS**

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impaired, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call our office at (661) 942-9549.

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